

These intergenerational families or "Grandfamilies" live in rural areas, inner cities and suburbs. They come from all races and ethnicities, and live in every state in the nation. Many of these grandparents survive on fixed incomes—social security, a small pension—and face not only the rising cost of prescription drugs, but also the cost of diapers, baby formula, toys, and school clothes.

Unfortunately, our nation's housing policy has not kept up with the unique needs of these families. There is currently only one housing development in the entire country specifically designed for intergenerational families—the Grandfamilies House in Boston, Massachusetts. The House offers apartments with special features for both grandparents and children, including childproof kitchen cabinets and handicapped-accessible bathrooms. There are also activities for seniors and children, an outdoor playground and an on-site computer lab.

I am introducing the LEGACY Act in response to the growing number of communities throughout the nation that have been working to build on the model of the Grandfamilies House in Boston. The title of the legislation was inspired by an Academy-Award nominated documentary film chronicling the life of a grandmother raising her grandchildren and their struggle to move out of a Chicago housing project.

The legislation creates demonstration programs through both the Section 8 Housing Certificate Fund and the Section 202 Elderly Housing program. These demonstration projects will enable housing developers and advocacy groups additional flexibility in securing financing for this housing and providing ongoing services to intergenerational families.

In addition, the LEGACY Act clarifies that grandparents raising their grandchildren are eligible for family unification assistance, allows access to fair housing funds for education and outreach efforts about the legal issues surrounding many of these families. It also directs the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide specialized training for their employees focused on grandparent—and other relative-headed families. Many grandparents do not have access to the services they and their grandchildren need. These training and outreach efforts will help raise the awareness of the unique issues these families face each day.

While this bill is a small step in recognizing the tremendous contributions of these grandparents, it is my hope that it will help bring this issue greater recognition. Affordable housing is only one of the many challenges these courageous grandparents face as they raise the next generation of Americans. Please Join me in supporting these families by supporting the LEGACY Act.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RITA
VORPERIAN, 27TH CONGRES-
SIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF
THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we

pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O'Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

I honor today, Dr. Rita Vorperian. Dr. Vorperian currently serves as the Senior Administrator and Executive Secretary of the Armenian Relief Society of Western U.S.A. Regional Executive. In this capacity, Rita has fought hard to bring both humanitarian and economic relief to the people of Armenia and its government who are currently suffering through troubling economic times.

A native of Aleppo, Syria, Rita is a graduate of the Karen Yeppe Armenian High School of Aleppo. She attended St. Joseph University in Beirut and graduated with a three-year course in higher Armenological studies. On her arrival in the United States, Rita enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles where she attained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Studies, her Masters Degree in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and her PhD in Armenian literature and criticism.

Her professional career is as exemplary as her educational background. She has been active in the field of journalism, making submissions to AZTAG Daily of Beirut, ASBAREZ of Los Angeles, and HATRENIK of Boston. She has also contributed essays and short stories to the literary magazine PAKINE of Beirut.

Her mastery of seven languages including: Armenian, Arabic, French, English, Turkish, Spanish and Russian has helped her in her role as an advocate for the people of Armenia around the world in serving their humanitarian needs as well as helping to preserve the cultural heritage and identity of the Armenian people.

Her work as the Senior Administrator and Executive Secretary of the Armenian National Relief Society of Western U.S.A. Regional Executive has helped establish a vital and enriched Armenian community in the 27th Congressional District and she continues to work for cultural understanding and acceptance of the Armenian people in America.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California's 27th Congressional District, Dr. Rita Vorperian. The entire community joins me in thanking Rita for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more vibrant and culturally enriched place to live.

POSTAL RATE PROCEEDINGS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on a matter that is critically important to every individual in this country, and critically important to the welfare of our economy. I am referring

to the condition of our United States Postal Service. In a proceeding now before the Postal Rate Commission, the Postal Service, which is in considerable financial difficulty, is proposing to give large mailers more than \$700 million per year in unjustified discounts. The cost of these unjustified discounts will be imposed on individual citizens and small businesses who must use the United States postal system.

It has been widely reported in the press that the Postal Service has suffered financial difficulties as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, and the problems caused by the discovery of anthrax in the mail. What has been less reported, but which is of equal or even greater long-run significance, is the fact that important issues of public policy affecting the vital interests of the Postal Service are being debated and decided in a little-noticed proceeding before the Postal Rate Commission.

I am deeply concerned that the policy decisions about to be made by the Postal Rate Commission may cripple the Postal Service. Unfortunately, the Postal Service itself appears to be cooperating with those who seek to exploit or weaken it.

I am referring to the fact that, in a misguided effort to speed up the postal rate increases, the Postal Service has proposed, and the Postal Rate Commission seems poised to accept, rates that will subsidize large business mailers at the expense of individuals and small businesses. This may occur because the Postal Service has proposed setting presort discounts for large business mailers at a rate which cannot be justified by the cost-savings to the Postal Service when mail is presorted.

The only party opposing the proposal to establish excessive discounts for presorted mail is the American Postal Workers Union. I am well aware, of course, that postal workers have a self-interest in opposing pre-sorting of mail. To the extent that mail is pre-sorted, work that might be done by postal employees is done by private industry. Nevertheless, the arguments made by the American Postal Workers Union against excessive presort discounts are correct and should be recognized and supported. The former Chief Financial Officer of the Postal Service, Dr. Michael Riley, has provided testimony in support of the APWU position opposing these subsidies for large mailers. Dr. Riley is no advocate for union interests, nor can he be discounted as an ideologue of any kind. Dr. Riley is a businessman, and he has addressed the issue of postal rate making from a sound business perspective.

As Dr. Riley has very persuasively argued before the Postal Rate Commission, it makes no business sense—it is unsound business—to give discounts to pre-sort mailers that exceed the costs avoided by the Postal Service when mail is pre-sorted. But that is what the Postal Service is proposing to do. The Postal Service is proposing to set discounts that will, in some cases, be 125 percent of costs avoided. This is wrong, it is a wrong business decision, and it is a wrong policy. When the Postal Service was created, it was set up to be run like a private sector business. Private sector business does not give away hundreds of millions of dollars. If this decision were to be based on solid business considerations, presort discounts would be set at an amount below the cost avoided. Sound business practice would require that the discounts be set as